

# SOUTHWESTER

A Monthly Non-Profit Publication of the Southwest Community Council, Inc.

SERVING NEAR SOUTHWEST/SOUTHEAST



Small Businesses

Partially funded by a grant from East Coast Development Corporation

November, 1993

## David's in a Goliath World

by Carole Bledsoe

Many people dream of leaving their jobs and achieving the "American Dream" of owning and operating their own businesses. In this country, everyone is supposed to have the opportunity to do just that. Many businessmen are idolized in American history for being able to start small and to work their way into large fortunes.

However, in the past decade, it is becoming less feasible to own and operate a small business. Several reasons for this include increased federal and local taxes, increased overhead costs, and a national recession that has led to a decrease in the amount of clientele.

The Southwest Washington business community has not been spared from this. In the past few years, a growing number of businesses have found it harder to stay afloat within the Waterside Mall Shopping Center. It is steadily becoming a common sight to see businesses that are in the process of closing their doors or relocating to cut costs.

Alain Chamberlain, who has been the owner and operator of the VIP Travel Agency for three years, has found it very hard to maintain his business. He explains that when switching from working for someone else to owning a small business that "It is not the same quality of life. It is similar to a job of being a butcher, a baker or a candlestick maker in that you start with almost nothing and build up to a large creation with your own hands."

The agency that Chamberlain currently operates has been in Waterside Mall since the 1970s. He is finding that with the cost of living going higher, people are not travelling very much. He also adds that with the recent competition between airlines that has led to a decrease in airline fares that "If, for example, I call for a \$19.00 ticket, I will only get 10% (about \$1.90) in profit which barely covers the cost of the phone calls that I would have to make." At the time of the interview, Chamberlain claims that business for the past week was "disastrous."

With the decrease in profits, Chamberlain finds that "I am putting out more than what is coming in when it comes to overhead costs." He is currently paying \$2,000 a month for his mall office space and he has received two raises in rent this year due to increase in utilities, mall maintenance, and the upkeep for parking spaces. When asked how he figures out his rent increases, he says that "I am a college graduate and after trying, I still can't figure anything out." He has been told that the increase is based on the Consumer Price Index.

### High's

In the past few years, there have been several businesses to close within the Waterside Mall area due to the effects of today's economy. For example, the High's Convenience Store, which closed down, was soon replaced. The Plymouth clothing store closed all of its stores down, but another businessman acquired this location, bought the Plymouth name, and is currently running a clothing store. A few months ago, Factor's Sandwich Shop closed down and recently has been reopened under new management.



Samuel Pope, co-owner of the "Head to Toe" Unisex Salon is another businessman who is finding it hard to maintain his small business. Unfortunately, he had to close his shop in the Waterside Mall on September 28th because of increases in his rent. He could not afford the last increase because of a drop in his business. However, he has no plans to completely close his business and is in the process of relocating. Pope felt that this summer was the worst of all because "since it was one of the hottest summers on record, it took a tremendous toll on electricity costs, plus people do not get their hair done as much during the summer months, so we had a drop in clientele."

### Samuel Pope

Pope opened his business about four years ago after two other hair salons closed in the same location. Each year, he would receive another notice about an increase in rent for his space. However, Pope found that this year was different because he usually received his increase notice around the 1st of July. This year, he did not receive anything until the month of September. Plus, after reading the contract, Pope found that this year's increase was only by \$1.00 instead of the \$100 or so. True, this amount was minuscule, but he had had it. When asked if he knew if other businesses were feeling the same crunch, Pope explained that "Everyone complained, but I really do not know about the specifics." He also explained that although he could understand the increases in rent based on the Consumer Price Index, he felt that he did not see any upgrading being done on the mall. The businesses are responsible for any upkeep or repairs that need to be done on their individual space. The mall developer is responsible for unrented space and the common areas.

Many people within the community have always been concerned with Waterside Mall. Gottlieb Simon, who serves as the Executive Director for the Advisory Neighborhood Commission [ANC-2D], explains that "service has always been a matter of high concern. There has always been a feeling that the mall develop-

er should be responsive to the needs of the people of the neighborhood."

### Mall Committee

In the 1970's, the "Save our Mall Committee" was formed. It was concerned about the physical condition of the mall and the lack of the services which it offered. This led to the creation of a city task force on Waterside Mall. The city gave money for the use of a market research and consultant firm, which made some suggestions (such as the addition of the decorations inside of the mall to make it look nicer). When it ended, however, the city had little influence, but it did help to complete the mall.

Charles Bresler talked about the current situation at the mall. When asked about the bad economy, Bresler commented, "When you have an uncertainty within the market plus a new president who is in the process of adding taxes to everything, including cigarettes and alcohol, that only leaves so many pieces in the pie. When people have to pay more for staple items (such as food, clothing, and shelter), that leaves less to spend on other things, therefore they become hesitant about spending money."

Bresler commented about the complaints about the expensive rent within Waterside Mall. He explains that his charges and yearly increases, when compared with other places in the Metropolitan Washington area, are about average or even lower and are different for each individual business in the mall. He charges about \$35 a square foot which is about average for an urban mall. The question is, does the real estate company maintain it as well as the

*cont. on p. 5*

### SW Neighborhood Assembly will not meet in November

There will be a Retreat held on October 30, from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. The Retreat will be for members of the board of the Assembly, heads of SWNA task forces, and members of the SW Community Council. The closed retreat will be upstairs at 700 Water Street Grill.

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### Letter from the Editor

SOS, where are any "Letters to the Editor"? When I began as the editor, I had the hope that the *Southwester* would be the voice of all who live here in near Southeast/Southwest. A box was placed at the library for input from citizens. For the most part, that box remains empty. Fortunately, our staff has worked over-time to keep the paper filled. Regardless, we would like more community participation.

Isn't anyone concerned about the recent shootings around Delaware Avenue? Is everyone 100% satisfied with the closing of Syphax and the consolidation of the three elementary schools into two schools? Doesn't anyone have anything to say about Jefferson High School? Are Waterside Mall and the Fish Market non-issues? Doesn't anyone have any news to report?

We are looking into being able to print more photographs. Because we had to cut costs - pictures which cost \$4.00 to print were the victims.

Doesn't anyone have any news to report? Or pictures to share?

### SW RESIDENT BECOMES YOUNG MARINE

On Thursday, September 30th, Laurence Snowden, of 203 N Street, SW, graduated from Young Marine Bootcamp after 14 weeks of training. The ceremony, which took place at the John Phillip Sousa Concert Hall, Washington Marine Barracks, at 8th & I Street, S.E., was officiated by the Young Marines Commanding Officer, Captain Michael D. Thomas and by the staff and members of the 8th & I Young Marines.

The special guest for the ceremony, representing Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly, was Dep. Chief Sarvis, 1st District, who commanded the Young Marines for their dedication to the standards of respect and discipline exemplified by the Young Marine program.

Over 50 recruits graduated and are continuing in the program.



Laurence Snowden

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### THE SOUTHWESTER

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Leave articles for *Southwester* in drop box at DC Public Library, Wesley Place at K St. SW by 2nd Wednesday, each month.

### Announcements

The *Southwester* receives many announcements of free (or almost free) happenings. The following is a listing of some of these services as well as some news items which you may find interesting.

**The Writers Center** Sunday November 7 at 2 pm, **Publication Reading**: Novelist Jewell Rhodes reads from *Voodoo Dreams* and poet Chris Llewellyn reads from *Steam Dummy* Admission is \$3. At the Writer's Center, 4508 Walsh St., Bethesda, MD. Also, on November 12 (Fri.), Nov. 14 (Sun.) and Nov. 21 (Sun.) they will be having events. Call 301/654-8664 for reservations.

**National Trust for Historic Preservation** Woodlawn Plantation/Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House - is having "A Halloween Happening: Ghostly Tours to Lift Your Spirits". It is based upon the book, *Ghost Stories of Woodlawn Plantation*. Tickets are \$7.00, the address is 9000 Richmond Hwy. (near Mt. Vernon) - call 703/780-4000.

**District of Columbia Arts Center** - exhibition of DC artist Rex Weil. The exhibit will be from Oct. 1 - Nov. 1. Gallery hours are Tuesday - Saturday, 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 pm with evening hours Thursday - Sunday (7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.). Call 462-7833 for more information.

**Hemlock Society Meeting** - the meeting for the Hemlock Society of the National Capital Area will be on Sunday, Nov. 14th at 2:30 p.m. at the Falls Church Community Center, 223 Little Falls St., Falls Church, VA. Call Pat 202/244-7220.

### FILL YOUR HEARTS AND SOULS WITH MUSIC

"An Evening of Joy" Jazz Vespers will feature the Ron Ellison Trio, with singer Ronnie Wells, Tony Williams, and Dick Smith on Sunday, November 14, 1993 at 5 p.m. at Christ United Methodist Church, 4th and I Streets, S.W., Washington, DC.

Donation is \$10 for Adults, \$5 for children. A reception will immediately follow.

For further information, contact M.B. Twitty, 202-488-0698.

## A Tasteful Treat

by Jerry Blasenstein

During the weekend of October 9-11, 1993, the stretch of Pennsylvania Avenue between 9th Street and Freedom Plaza played host to the annual *Taste of DC* celebration. This lively international street fair, for the third time, brought together many elements of the ethnically and culturally diverse Washington, DC community in a festival of food, fun, and frolic. The festival is produced and sponsored by the D.C. Committee to Promote Washington, supported by many corporate and retail sponsors.

As in previous years, three stages were set up on the 9th street and Freedom Plaza ends with a large stage in the center, at 12th street. With over 50 of the finest D.C. restaurants represented, one could wander from one end to the other, sampling dishes ranging from Jamaican meat pies and Jerk chicken to Mexican tacos and fajitas, Thai Shrimp and chicken, charging all the way to some of the best BBQ on the East Coast, with a rest stop on the Human Express!

The entertainment was top notch, and whatever suited one's palate could be found on the stages. For Jazz aficionados, Melissa Walker, Tito Puente, and Nnenna Freelon were featured, *Sample This!* provided Urban Contemporary sounds, and *Steel Pulse* was checked for the Reggae sound. Not to be omitted were Big Band, Progressive Rock, Classical Rock, Coun-

try Western, Blues, Oldies, and Al Green with Gospel/Rhythm & Blues.

The "Family Fun Stop", located at the Freedom Plaza end, offered magicians, clowns, face-painting, and a series of performances on the stage. Most notable of these were the presentations hosted by the Tap America Project. The tap companies *Tappers with Attitude, Tapestry, and Taps & Co.* [which this writer is extremely proud to be a member of] all exhibited the wealth of talent right here in the Nation's Capitol. The KanKouran West African dance and drum troupe also appeared. There were jugglers, story tellers, games, amusements and many other surprises.

Of all the many festivals held here throughout the summer, this one seems to bring a central focus to them all.

### RADIO ZONE ANNOUNCES CHILDREN'S BOOK BAG

**RADIO ZONE**, the only radio station in metropolitan Washington serving children and families, is proud to announce the broadcast of Children's Book Bag with Karen Leggett, a series of children's book reviews. Ms. Leggett is a distinguished broadcast personality in Washington, who spent many years as a news reporter and on-air personality with WMAL. During the summer months on her mid-day show at WMAL, Ms. Leggett began reviews of children's books and discussions of reading over the summer. Ms. Leggett encouraged children to call in with their own favorites and developed this feature into one of the most popular portions of her summer shows.

At **RADIO ZONE**, Ms. Leggett will continue her particular interest and expertise in children's literature. Children's Book Bag will include interviews with children's authors and pre-recorded reviews called in by children in the audience. On September 27, 1993, **RADIO ZONE** will welcome Karen Leggett and the Children's Book Bag to the only stations offering great music and other features for children and families. Tune in to 1050 AM WKDL.

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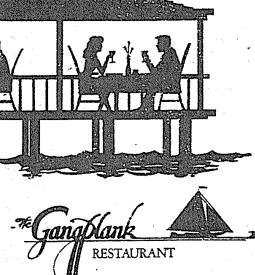
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## Arts Competition

The Montpelier Cultural Arts Center announces its bi-annual competition to select 8-10 artists for a two-month long exhibition to be held in the Library Gallery. To be eligible, artists must reside in Maryland or the District of Columbia and be over 18 years of age. An outside judge may elect to exhibit artists who apply for solo shows or artists who apply as groups. An honorarium of \$300 will be presented for each exhibition to the artist or artists exhibiting (i.e. groups share the \$300 honorarium).

The Montpelier Cultural Arts Center staff will handle all promotion and installation, as well as the reception. To apply for a solo or group show in 1994-95, send all of the following to the Montpelier Cultural Arts Center, Library Gallery Competition, 12826 Laurel-Bowie Road, Laurel, MD 20708.

No more than 20 color slides in card board mounts arranged in a slide-plastic holder. Label all slides with name, title, medium and place a red dot in the lower right corner.

Resume or resumes of artist or artists to be in the show.

A proposal of no more than one typewritten page, double spaced. Specify what month is *cont. from p. 1*

Capital Gallery (3rd and D St, SW) or L'Enfant Plaza?

He also answered the question of whether there are enough services within the mall to meet the needs of the residents. "In comparison to a large shopping mall, a neighborhood shopping center only needs a supermarket, a bank, a drugstore, a dry cleaner, a liquor store, a travel agency, clothing stores, a delicatessen, plus several restaurants and other services. Each of these businesses is currently within the mall and every business that has closed has been replaced." He also added that it was hard to provide a complete range of services due to the unique market that makes up the Waterside Mall area. This market includes singles and elderly couples with grown children who buy differently than large families. It also includes the people who work at the Environmental Protection Agency, and the elderly and low income residents. The latter often are on fixed incomes and usually buy at certain times of the month.

Bresler also commented on the physical condition of the mall. He commented that the sidewalks around the mall are in the process of completion and that there is a maintenance crew that keeps the mall clean during the day, but "If there is chewing gum and cigarette butts on the sidewalks and broken windows, whose fault is that?" He also commented on the lack of above ground parking due to having to follow regulations for an Urban Renewal Program.

The kinds of affirmative action requirements and community requirements place on other malls in recent years were not placed on Waterside mall. The mall was leased from RLA and Bresler & Reiner own it. It is about 30 years old. Usually, a mall which receives assistance from the city has to follow certain rules, not Waterside.

Despite the aforementioned difficulties, there are those who may still desire to start a small business. There are several avenues of assistance available. The public library will usually provide information about how to start a business plus all of the federal and state laws that one needs to know. Simon also adds that Howard University has a small business center sponsored by the Small Business Administration that can help. The city also has an office of business and economic development for further questions. Chamberlain also advises that "You have to have a good deal of self-determination and operating money, and you have to deal with a lot, but I always say that I will put out to be the boss."

preferred for your show and a second and third choice.

A self-addressed, stamped envelope for return of the slides.

Deadline is December 15, 1993

In addition to the 8-10 shows established by the competition, there will also be an "all hung" exhibition in the gallery. This show runs on a first come, first hung basis. There is a 25% commission on sales for the shows established by the competition and no commission on the "all hung" exhibition.

To enter the "all hung" show:

Bring your artwork to the Montpelier Cultural Arts Center on January 3 or 4, 1994, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Be sure all work is framed and or matted with hooks and wire suitable for hanging. Artwork may not exceed 35" in any direction.

Bring only one piece.

There is no hanging fee. There is no commission on the sale of the artwork.

Come to the reception on January 7 at 7 p.m.

Remove work on January 28 or 29 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information, please call 301-953-1993 (Washington), or TDD 490-2329.

### CALENDAR OF COMMUNITY EVENTS

Friday, October 22, D.C. Night out (Police Department): Place and Time TBA.

Sunday, October 24, Southwest Youth Chorus Benefit Concert, 4 p.m., Riverside Baptist Church.

Saturday, October 30, Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Retreat, Board Members, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., 700 Water Street.

Monday, November 8, ANC-2D Regular meeting, 7:30 p.m. Westminster Church.

Tuesday, November 9, First District Citizens Advisory Council, 7:30 p.m. District Headquarters.

Tuesday, November 16, Southwest Community House Annual Meeting, Place and Time TBA.

Friday, November 19, First District Citizens Advisory Council Awards Dinner, Quality Hotel, Capitol Hill.

Please call in community events for the next calendar to C.W. Hargrave at 554-8284.

### The Innocent

by Yaye Diallo

Looking into your glazing face  
With eyes that flicker  
like a candle-light in the night  
I see a starving soul  
Yearning for recognition and control  
feeling a sense of hopelessness  
for a soul to fill the emptiness  
You give away a part of you  
that you know you will never get back  
Believing in return  
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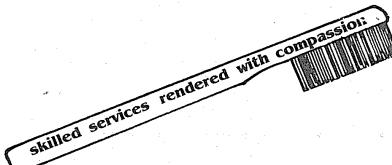
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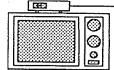
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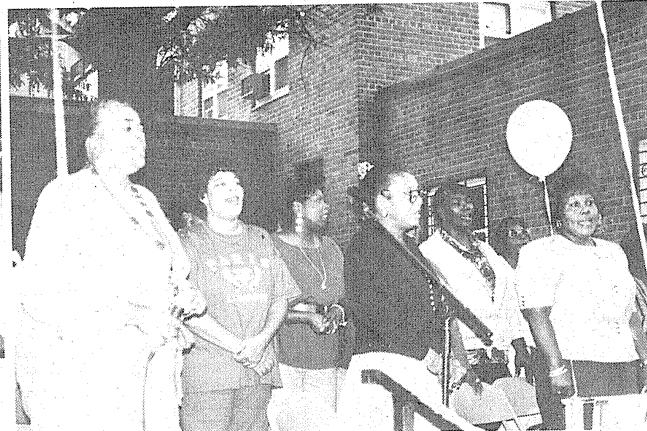
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7:30, 8:00, 8:30, 11:30, 12:00, 12:30 and  
5:30 p.m.  
WEEKDAYS: 7:30, 8:00, 8:30 and 12:10 p.m.  
SATURDAY: 8:30 and 12:10 p.m.

**Community Kickoff Program**

Second Baptist Church, had an anti-drug program for the whole community on Friday, September 24, 1993 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. The program was headed by Brother Branch and Reverend Radford. It was held in the area adjacent to the Greenleaf Recreation Center.

The program consisted of gospel singing, an inspirational skit and a homily given by Reverend Franklin. Clint Anderson, former director of SW Community House gave a rousing pep talk in support of the program. Everyone seemed to have a good time and hopefully, learned something in the process. Follow-up workshops and a drug-mobile are planned.



**FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH  
BRIEFS**

We hope those of you who attended services of our church anniversary enjoyed them and we thank you for coming.

We have good news for you, our Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, November 13th, has been changed to 9:00 am, and its FREE.

Please don't forget our Women's Day services Sunday, November 14th at 11:00 am and 3:30 pm. Come in your black and white attire. You will receive a blessing. Sisters Theresa Mozie and Ellen Roberts are our very capable chairpersons.

We realize crime is at an all time high, we pray that God will watch over you and keep you safe and we ask that you will keep us in your prayers.

Rev. William H. Montgomery, Pastor

**TRAINING, INC.****WHAT IS TRAINING, INC.?**

- \* A 24-week Office Careers Program
- \* A hands-on experience using the state-of-the-art equipment in a simulated office environment located at:
  - 918 16th Street, NW (16th and K Streets), Suite 204
  - McPherson Square Metro stop (blue & orange lines)
  - Farragut North (red line)
- \* A training course in touch-typing, calculator, telephone skills, accounting, word processing, Lotus 1-2-3, Business English and Math, as well as job searching, resume writing and interviewing skills.
- \* A program funded by the public sector, private businesses and foundations.
- \* A program with over 7,000 graduates nationally.

**WHAT IS DIFFERENT ABOUT TRAINING, INC.?**

- \* A training approach that has an exceptional track record in other cities such as: Boston, Chicago, Indianapolis, Newark, Pittsburgh and New Orleans.
- \* A location in a downtown office setting that daily exposes trainees to the business environment.
- \* A simulated training approach that allows trainees to recognize their own potential and make the successful transition into the world of work.

**WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR A TRAINEE?**

- \* Over age 18 to senior citizen
- \* Both women and men
- \* Minimum 6th grade reading and math levels
- \* High school diploma or GED preferred (but not required)
- \* Able to attend 24 weeks of full-time training (9:00 am-4:00 pm, Monday-Friday)
- \* Attendance and punctuality are crucial to success
- \* Desire to work in an office setting
- \* Available to work in full-time job upon graduation
- \* Locate qualified childcare and backup system
- \* Qualify for the Department of Employment Services Certification
- \* DC resident

Last month, we wrote about WIC's Job Corp, which is a program for 18-24 year olds, 202/393-1188. Training, Inc. is for the more mature worker. Call 202/467-0726 for information.

**CALENDAR OF COMMUNITY EVENTS**

Friday, October 22, D.C. Night out (Police Department) Place and Time TBA.

Sunday, October 24, Southwest Youth Chorus Benefit Concert, 4 p.m., Riverside Baptist Church.

Saturday, October 30, Southwest Neighborhood Assembly Retreat, Board Members, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., 700 Water Street.

Monday, November 8, ANC-2D Regular meeting, 7:30 p.m. Westminster Church.

Tuesday, November 9, First District Citizens Advisory Council, 7:30 p.m. District Headquarters.

Tuesday, November 16, Southwest Community House Annual Meeting, Place and Time TBA.

Friday, November 19, First District Citizens Advisory Council Awards Dinner, Quality Hotel, Capitol Hill.

Please call in community events for the next calendar to C.W. Hargrave at 554-8284.

**CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL SPONSORS CONFERENCE FOR STUDENT JOURNALISTS**

On Thursday, November 11, Children's Hospital will sponsor a one-day conference for junior and senior high school journalism students. "Stop the Presses: Writing About Teen Health Issues" will take place from 8:30 am to 3:00 pm at the hospital, which is located at 111 Michigan Avenue, NW, in the District. The conference registration cost is \$5.00 per person and is open to students and their advisors.

This is the seventh time that the hospital's Departments of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine and Public Relations have sponsored this conference. "Stop the Presses" will introduce student journalists to health issues important to teenagers and help them develop writing and reporting skills.

In the morning, topics such as AIDS, eating disorders, drug abuse, and sexuality will be discussed by Children's Hospital health professionals in a "press briefing" for student journalists. A panel of reporters and editors from print and broadcast media will also speak to the group about the skills and preparation needed to pursue a career in health journalism. The afternoon will feature smaller workshop sessions for students on a variety of health and journalism issues.

For more information or to request a registration form for the conference, call the Children's Hospital Department of Public Relations at (202) 884-4500.

**College Workshop**

The 2nd Baptist Church will sponsor a College Recruitment Session. It will be held at Amidon School on Saturday, October 23 between the hours of 9:00 - 12:00, and 1:00 - 4:00. Over 30 colleges will be represented. In addition, two financial institutions will be on-hand to give information about financial aid. High school students are encouraged to attend this informative session.

**They May Be . . .**

They may be Black  
They may be White  
They may be generous  
They may be tight

They may like meats  
They may like fruits  
They may use doctors  
They may use roots

They may be short  
They may be tall  
They may run track  
They may play ball

They may be straight  
They may be gay  
Doesn't really matter  
They just are that way

They may have nappy hair  
Or it may be straight  
They may be trim  
Or need to lose weight

They may be very vocal  
Or they may not talk enough  
They may chew tobacco  
Or they may dip snuff

Whatever they are  
Or eventually turn out to be  
I just love all people  
They are brother and sister to me

copr., Margaret H. Oliver, 1991

**SCHOOL NEWS**

**AMIDON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:** Students and staff of Amidon Elementary would like to extend their warmest welcome to both returning and new volunteers from the Department of Education, The Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. International Trade Commission.

Something new and exciting is in the Amidon Library during recess time for 6th Graders Davon Keys and Pierre Fletcher-a reserved area to play chess-under the sponsorship of librarian Marilyn Moser. Four other 6th Graders are on the waiting list. For membership, students must display good manners and respect towards others at all times. Also, they must show a deep interest in learning the game. Harvey Kidder writes "an educated person is one whose mind works well in all areas... chess should certainly be part of his or her education." The Amidon Library Chess Club is becoming very popular.

To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, Amidon held a "Taste of Hispanic Food" on Thursday, October 14. The special guest was Mr. Julio Castillo, Executive Assistant to the superintendent.

**JEFFERSON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL:** Many thanks to the HUD Credit Union for their generous gift. Volunteers like you help so very much and we need more, also tutors and mentors.

Diane Brown, who works at Jefferson J.H.S., told about the Open House which will introduce future students to the Science, Math, and Technology school. The Open House will be on Friday, October 29th from 9:00 - 3:00. Representatives from NASA, COMSAT, University of the District of Columbia, the Energy Department, C&P Telephone Co., George Washington University and the company, Trees for the City will be in attendance.

**ANTHONY BOWEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
The liaison to the *Southwester* could not be reached for a report on the school.

Additional mentors, volunteers & tutors are needed at each of the schools. Call Amidon at 724-4867, Anthony Bowen at 724-4871 or Jefferson at 724-4881, if you can help.

**Amidon Elementary School**

At the Citizenship Day Program held recently at Amidon, Lamar Harris, a Library Tale-Teller, wrote:

I am proud to be a citizen of the United States,  
A Nation that is rich and internationally great!  
A citizen who works hard to give my best.  
To be patriotic, honest, and to give nothing less.  
I am proud to be a citizen of the United States,  
A Nation that is rich and internationally great.

**BOOK FAIR... PLUS**

The thirty-third annual BOOK FAIR held by the Association of American Foreign Service Women offers thousands of books for the bibliophile...plus coins and stamps for the collector...plus unique and beautiful fine art and folk art from around the world. Held in the Exhibition Hall of the State Department (C Street entrance), the fair will be open to the public Saturdays and Sundays October 23, 24, 30, and 31 from 10 to 4. Proceeds go to the AAFSW scholarship fund and many local projects benefiting women and children. Call Joan Underland, 703/243-6631 for more information.

## RIVERSIDE TOPS AREA CONTEST

The Riverside Condominium, at 1425-35 Fourth Street, S.W., was cited for "excellence in all facets of...operations from financial management to instilling a sense of neighborhood." The Riverside Unit Owners Association is the area 1993 "Community Association of the Year" in the medium size category.

The award (a plaque), was presented at the annual awards dinner of the Washington Metropolitan Chapter of the Community Associations Institute (WMCCAI), on Saturday, September 18. Representing Riverside at the dinner were Board President Jane Boorman, Resident Manager Pat Turner-Dodson, and Property Manager Richard Skobel. The complex also had a mention in the Washington Post.

More than 50 communities entered the competition, the largest in WMCCAI's history. Categories were small (1-149 units), medium (150-499 units), large (500-999 units), and very large (1,000+ units). Area winners now advance to national competition.

Criteria included general statistical information; qualifying policies related to keeping of minutes, holding of meetings and elections, insurance, compliance with the law, and environmental programs; general policies related to contracting procedures, provision of information to owners and residents, and committee activity; financial policies including capital improvements completed and anticipated, collection procedure for delinquent accounts; rule enforcement and architectural control policies; and special activities. Communities were invited to present a two-page essay on accomplishments, events and features emphasizing why the development is an outstanding association.

Community Associations Institute, based in Arlington, VA., is a national association serving

## SAT Workshop

The 2nd Annual PSAT/SAT readiness workshop has just finished. It was held at the library on 4 consecutive Saturdays. This year it was opened to all S.W. students (from 7th grade, up to 11th grade). This program was started under the auspices of 2nd Baptist Church and originally, it was only for the children of members of the church. The Southwest area is fortunate that this program is available to everyone.

The chair of this workshop is Vernice Howard. She is retired after working with students for the past 40 years. Ms Howard is the chair of the Scholarship Committee at 2nd Baptist Church. In addition to Ms. Howard, one of the other heads of the workshop is Mr. [redacted] who is Director of Test Improvements for the D.C. Schools.

They teach PSAT/SAT familiarity and test-taking skills. Gone are the days when the SAT stood for the Scholastic Aptitude Test; it is now called the Scholastic Assessment Test. This means that a student can no longer take this test and rely on multiple choice questions or questions which require him/her to give tired, old, recycled answers. This new test calls for original thinking, students must use reasoning and think through each answer. By the end of the class, the students have a new confidence and are ready for the all-important test.

home owner associations - condominiums, cooperatives, planned unit developments, etc - with informational services and training programs in all aspects of community operations.

Riverside has been a member of WMCCAI since condo conversion in 1980 with all board and many committee members participating in its training programs and educational services.

## THIRTY CONTEMPORARY JAPANESE PORCELAIS SHOWN AT SACKLER GALLERY

Thirty innovative and dramatically varied porcelain vessels by 30 Japanese artists will go on view at the Arthur M. Sackler Gallery, a national museum of Asian art at the Smithsonian Institution, from November 21 through April 3, 1994. The Japan Foundation will donate these ceramics to the Sackler Gallery.

"Contemporary Porcelain from Japan" is presented in cooperation with the Embassy of Japan, The Japan Foundation and the Kokusai Bunka Kyokai (International Cultural Association). Prior to the Sackler Gallery exhibition, these works were shown at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Los Angeles, the Portland Art Museum, the Dallas Museum of Art, the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City and the Nippon Club in New York.

The object on view were made between 1972 and 1992 (21 were made since 1991) by members of the ceramic arts division of the Issuikai, an artists' association in Japan that sponsors annual juried exhibitions. A number of the works were either made specifically for this exhibition or chose from the artists' personal collections for presentation to the Sackler Gallery.

The Arthur M. Sackler Gallery is located at 1050 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC, convenient to the Smithsonian Metrorail stop. Hours are from 10 am to 5:30 pm daily, except Dec. 25, and admission is free.

*Happy Thanksgiving*

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